

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) In an arrangement comprising a plurality of agents connected to a network, said plurality of agents including at least one server, at least one buyer agent, and at least one seller agent, a method for calculating ~~price data~~ a comparison value, comprising:

receiving at least one request for quote from said buyer agent, wherein said request for quote includes a product specification data set comprising a plurality of quantity values for a number of items having different size parameters;

transmitting the product specification data set to at least one seller agent;

receiving a price data set from said at least one seller agent, wherein the price data set contains at least one quoted value, and wherein information in said price data set is responsive to the product specification data set;

generating at least one comparison value by:

retrieving a price total from said price data set;

for items having similar size parameters:

calculating a size total value based on a summation of said size parameters;

receiving metric data from at least one source, wherein the metric data represents price data that is indicative of one or more market prices and comprises a comparable price per unit for the items; and

multiplying said comparable price per unit by said size total value, thereby creating a market price total for the items;

calculating a summed market price total by summing one or more of the market price totals for the items;

comparing said summed market price total to said price total, thereby generating  
at least one comparison value, ~~wherein the comparison value is indicative of a ratio of the quoted~~  
~~value and at least one metric value derived from the metric data; and~~

communicating the at least one comparison value to at least one output.

2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, ~~further comprising communicating~~  
wherein the at least one comparison value is communicated to said buyer agent.

3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising providing a  
browsable display describing at least one service and features for allowing a buyer agent to  
provide a request for quote.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the product specification data set  
includes a delivery date set at a future time.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving a buy notice from said buyer agent; and  
transmitting a purchase order to at least one said seller agent.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving a plurality of product specification data sets from at least two buyer agents; and  
combining said plurality of product specification data sets, thereby creating one request  
for quote.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said product specification data set  
includes information related to a buyer, a grade, a quantity, a tally, a method of shipment, and a  
ship date.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the product specification data set  
comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of like commodity items having different

size parameters, a description of at least one commodity item, and a description of a delivery method.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said price data set includes information to identify a seller, a quote price, shipment, and payment terms.

10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein said price data set further includes an adjusted price and an adjusted quantity.

11. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising receiving an additional price data set from the seller agent, wherein the additional price data set is a result from a renegotiated price.

12. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising storing at least one comparison value in a database communicatively connected to the server.

13. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein generating at least one comparison value includes the step of applying a metric transform to said price data set to ~~create~~ generate at least one comparison value.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 14~~ Claim 1, wherein comparing said summed market price total ~~[[by]] to~~ said price total includes determining a ratio by dividing said price total by said summed market price total, thereby ~~creating~~ generating the at least one comparison value.

16. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of items~~[[, each having]]~~ different size parameters and type parameters, and wherein the generation of at least one comparison value includes:

retrieving a price total from said price data set;

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for ~~each item~~ items having similar size parameters and type parameters~~[[.]]~~:  
calculating a size total value based on a summation of said size parameters;  
~~retrieving a price total from one of said price data sets;~~  
~~for each item having similar size parameters and type parameters,~~ retrieving a  
~~metric price data set~~ metric data from at least one source, wherein ~~said market price data set~~ the  
metric data represents price data that is indicative of one or more market prices and comprises a  
comparable price per unit ~~of at least one of said items~~ for the items; and  
multiplying said comparable price per unit by said size total value, thereby  
creating a market price total for the items;  
calculating a summed market price total ~~from the summation of~~ by summing one or more  
of said market price totals; and  
comparing said summed market price total ~~[[by]]~~ to said price total, thereby ~~creating~~  
generating at least one comparison value.

17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein comparing said summed  
market price total ~~[[by]]~~ to said price total ~~type-price~~ includes determining a ratio by dividing  
said price total ~~type-price~~ by said summed market price total, thereby ~~creating~~ generating the at  
least one comparison value.

18. (Currently amended) In an arrangement comprising a plurality of computers  
connected to a network, said plurality of computers including at least one server, at least one  
buyer client computer, and a plurality of seller client computers, a method for providing services,  
comprising:

providing a ~~browsable~~ display describing at least one service and features for allowing a  
buyer associated with said buyer client computer to provide a request for quote;

receiving at least one request for quote from said buyer client computer, wherein said request for quote includes a product specification data set comprising a plurality of quantity values for a number of items having different size parameters;

transmitting said product specification data set to at least one of said plurality of seller client computers;

receiving a plurality of price data sets from said plurality of seller client computers, wherein the price data sets contain at least one quoted value, and wherein said plurality of price data sets are responsive to said product specification data set;

generating at least one comparison value by:

retrieving a price total from one of said price data sets;

for items having similar size parameters:

calculating a size total value based on a summation of said size parameters;

receiving metric data from at least one source, wherein the metric data represents price data that is indicative of one or more market prices and comprises a comparable price per unit for the items; and

multiplying said comparable price per unit by said size total value, thereby creating a market price total for the items;

calculating a summed market price total by summing one or more of the market price totals for the items;

comparing said summed market price total to said price total, thereby generating at least one comparison value, wherein the comparison value is indicative of a ratio of the at least one quoted value and at least one metric value derived from the metric data; and

communicating the at least one comparison value ~~for depiction on~~ to said buyer client computer.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising:  
receiving a buy notice from said buyer client computer; and  
transmitting a purchase order to one of said seller computers of said plurality of seller client computers.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising:  
receiving a plurality of product specification data sets from said plurality of buyer client computers; and  
combining said plurality of product specification data sets, thereby creating one request for quote.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said product specification data set includes information related to a buyer, said request for quote grade, quantity, tally, a method of shipment, and a ship date.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of like commodity items having different size parameters, a description of at least one commodity item, and a description of a delivery method.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said price data set includes information to identify a seller, a quote price, shipment, and payment terms.

24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein said price data set further includes an adjusted price and an adjusted quantity.

25. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 18, further comprising receiving an additional price data set from ~~[[the]]~~ one of said plurality of seller client computer computers, wherein the additional price data set is a result from a renegotiated price.

26. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, further comprising storing at least one comparison value in a database communicatively connected to the server.

27. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein the generation of at least one comparison value includes applying a metric transform to at least one of said price data ~~[[set]] sets~~ to ~~create~~ generate at least one comparison value.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 28~~ Claim 18, wherein comparing said summed market price total ~~[[by]]~~ to said price total includes determining a ratio by dividing said price total by said summed market price total, thereby ~~creating~~ generating the at least one comparison value.

30. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein said product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of ~~commodity~~ items, each having different size parameters and type parameters, wherein the generation of at least one comparison value includes:

retrieving a price total from one of said price data sets;

for ~~each commodity item~~ items having similar size parameters and type parameters~~[[,]]~~:

calculating a size total value based on a summation of said ~~commodity~~ size parameters;

~~retrieving a price total from one of said price data sets;~~

~~for each commodity item having similar size parameters and type parameters;~~

~~retrieving a metric price data set~~ metric data from at least one source, wherein ~~said market price~~

~~data set~~ the metric data represents price data that is indicative of one or more market prices and comprises a comparable price per unit of at least one of said commodity items for the items; and

multiplying said comparable price per unit by said size total value, thereby creating a market price total for the items;

calculating a summed market price total ~~from the summation of~~ by summing one or more of said market price totals; and

comparing said summed market price total ~~[[by]] to~~ said price total, thereby ~~creating~~ generating at least one comparison value.

31. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 30, wherein comparing said summed market price total ~~[[by]] to~~ said price total ~~type-price~~ includes determining a ratio by dividing said price total ~~type-price~~ by said summed market price total, thereby ~~creating~~ generating the at least one comparison value.

32. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for providing services, which, when executed by a processor, result in:

providing a display describing at least one service on a computing device and features for allowing at least one buyer client computer to provide a request for quote;

receiving at least one request for quote from said buyer client computer, wherein the request for quote includes a product specification data set comprising a plurality of quantity values for a number of items having different size parameters;

transmitting the product specification data set to a plurality of seller client computers;

receiving a plurality of price data sets from said plurality of seller client computers, wherein the price data ~~set contains~~ sets contain a quoted value, and wherein said plurality of price data sets are responsive to the product specification data set;



generating at least one comparison value by:

retrieving a price total from one of said price data sets;

for items having similar size parameters:

calculating a size total value based on a summation of said size parameters;

receiving metric data from at least one source, wherein the metric data represents price data that is indicative of one or more market prices and comprises a comparable price per unit of said each item; and

multiplying said comparable price per unit by said size total value, thereby creating a market price total for the items;

calculating a summed market price total by summing one or more of the market price totals for the items;

comparing said summed market price total to said price total, thereby generating at least one comparison value, wherein the comparison value is indicative of a ratio of the quoted value and at least one metric value derived from the metric data; and

generating an output of at least one comparison value ~~for depiction on~~ for communication to said buyer client computer.

33. (Previously presented) The article of Claim 32, wherein the computer-executable instructions, when executed, further result in:

receiving a buy notice from said buyer client computer; and

transmitting a purchase order to one or more of said seller computers of said plurality of seller client computers.

34. (Previously presented) The article of Claim 32, wherein the computer-executable instructions, when executed, further result in:

receiving a plurality of product specification data sets from a plurality of buyer client computers; and

combining said plurality of product specification data sets, thereby creating one request for quote.

35. (Currently amended) The article of Claim 32, wherein the computer-executable instructions, when executed, further result in receiving an additional price data set from [[the]] one of said plurality of seller client ~~computer~~ computers, wherein the additional price data set is a result from a renegotiated price.

36. (Previously presented) The article of Claim 32, wherein the computer-executable instructions, when executed, further result in storing at least one comparison value in a database communicatively connected to the server.